

For Sale.

MacEwen, FRICKEL & Co.

Have Received For Sale

CHRISTMAS STORES AND NEW AND SEASONABLE GOODS.

EX FRENCH MAIL STEAMER. MUSCATEL RAISINS. METZ FRUIT.

ASSORTED COSAQUES. CALMARD & BOWSER'S CONFECTIONERY.

BUTTER SCOTCH. HONEY SCOTCH.

ROSE TOFFEE. LEMON TOFFEE.

ROSE'S LIME JUICE CORDIAL.

PLUM PUDDINGS. PATRAS CURRANTS.

VALENCIA RAISINS. MACKINNON PEN.

LAWN TENNIS BATS. LAWN TENNIS BALLS.

LAWN TENNIS SHOES. Ex Steamer "Gleghuie."

STILTON CHEESE. YORK HAMS.

CHRISTMAS CAKES. TREVANION'S DESSERT FRUITS.

ALMONDS AND RAISINS. SMYRNA FIGS.

PICNIC TONGUES. PILCHETS.

COCAUTINA. VAN HOUTEN'S COCOA.

LIEBIG'S & CO'S COCOA. FRENCH PLUMS.

HUNTLEY & PALMER'S BISCUITS. PATE DE FOIE GRAS.

MINECEAT. CHOCOLATE-MENIER.

SAUSAGES. BROWN.

ISIGNY BUTTER. DANISH BUTTER.

BREAKFAST TONGUES. ANCHOVIES.

ASPARAGUS. SOUPS, &c.

WINE AND SPIRITS.

CHAMPAGNES—HIEBISCH'S MONOPOLE & WHITE SEAL.

YEUVE CLUQUOT PONSARDIN. JULES MUMM & Co., pints & quarts.

CLARETS—CHATEAU LA ROSE, pints & quarts.

CHATEAU LA FITE. INDS. CHATEAU.

BREAKFAST CLARET. " " " "

SHERRIES & PORT—SACCO'S MANZANILLA & AMON-TILLADO.

SACCO'S OLD INVALID PORT (1848).

HUNT'S PORT.

BRANDY, WHISKY, LIQUEURS, &c.—1, 2 & 3 star HENNESSY'S BRANDY.

BISQUIT DUBOIS & Co.'s BRANDY. FINEST OLD BOURBON WHISKY.

KINAHAN'S L.L. WHISKY. ROYAL GLENLIVE WHISKY.

CHATEAU-ROUSSE. MARASCHINO.

CURACAO. ANGOSTURA.

BOKER'S AND ORANGE BITTERS. &c., &c., &c.

BASS'S ALE, bottled by CAMERON and SAUNDERS, pints and quarts.

GUINNESS'S STOUT, bottled by E. & J. BURKE, pints and quarts.

PILSENER BEER, in quarts.

DRAUGHT ALE and PORTER, by the Gallon.

ALE and PORTER, in hogheads.

EX AMERICAN MAIL.

Fresh ROLL BUTTER. Eastern and Californian CHEESE.

Boneless CODFISH. Prime HAMS and BACON.

Russian CAVIARE. Eagle Brand Condensed MILK.

PEACH and APPLE BUTTER. Pickled OX-TONGUES.

Family PIG-PORK in kgs and pieces. Paragon MACKEREL in 5 lb cans.

Bean Ideal SALMON in 5 lb cans. Outling's Dessert FRUITS in 2 1/2 lb cans.

Assorted Canned VEGETABLES. " Potted SAUSAGE and Sausage MEAT.

" Stuffed PEPPERS. Assorted PICKLES.

MINCEMEAT. COMB HONEY in Original Frames.

Richardson & Robbin's Celebrated Potted MEATS.

Richardson & Robbin's Curried OYSTERS. " Lunch TONGUE.

McCarthy's Sugar LEMONADE. CHICKEN CHOWDER.

Smoked SALMON. Green TORTLE in 2 1/2 lb cans.

&c., &c., &c.

YACHT & PICNIC SUPPLIES.

CALIFORNIA RACKER.

COMPANY'S BISCUITS in 5 lb tins, and loose.

Alphabetical BISCUITS.

Fancy Sweet Mixed BISCUITS.

Ginger CAKES.

Soda BISCUITS.

Oyster BISCUITS.

Cracked WHEAT.

OATMEAL.

HOMINY.

CORNMEAL.

BUCKWHEAT FLOUR.

RYE MEAL.

SPECIALLY SELECTED CIGARS.

Fine New Season's OUMSHAW TEA, in 5 and 10 catty boxes.

BREAKFAST CONGOUT @ 25 cents p. lb.

SHIPCHANDLERY of every Description. RIGGING and SAIL-MAKING promptly executed.

Hongkong, January 25, 1882.

Mails.

NOTICE.

COMPAGNIE DES MESSAGERIES MARITIMES.

PAQUEBOTS-POSTE FRANCAIS.

STEAM FOR SAIGON, SINGAPORE, BATAVIA, POINT DE GALLE, COLOMBO, ADEN, SUEZ, ISMAHIA, PORT SAID, SYRIE, PORTS, NAPLES, MARSEILLES, AND PORTS OF BRAZIL, AND LA PLATA.

ALSO, PONDICHERY, MADRAS, CALCUTTA, AND ALL INDIAN PORTS.

ON MONDAY, the 27th day of March, 1882, at Noon, the Company's S. S. YANGLIE, Commandant LORIMER, with MAILED PASSENGERS, SPECIE, and CARGO, will leave this Port for the above places.

Cargo and Specie will be registered for London as well as for Alexandria, and accepted in transit through Marseilles for the principal places of Europe.

Shipping Orders will be granted until Noon of 24th March.

Cargo will be received on board until 4 p.m., Specie and Parcels until 3 p.m. on the 26th March, 1882. (Parcels are not to be sent on board; they must be left at the Agency's Office.)

Contents and value of Packages are required.

For further particulars, apply at the Company's Office.

G. DE CHAMPEAUX, Agent.

Hongkong, March 20, 1882. m27

MITSUBISHI MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

STEAM TO YOKOHAMA VIA KOBE AND INLAND SEA.

THE S. S. NIGATA MARU, Captain WYNN, due here on or about the 25th instant, will be despatched as above on FRIDAY, the 31st March, at 4 p.m.

Cargo received on board and Parcels at the Office up to 3 p.m. of day of sailing.

No Bill of Lading signed under \$2 Freight.

All Claims must be settled on board before delivery is taken, otherwise they will not be recognized.

RATES OF PASSAGE.

To Yokohama, \$40 5/6

To Yokohama & Nagasaki, 75 20

Shanghai via Yokohama, 120 40

" " " " 95 30

A Reduction is made on RETURN CABIN PASSENGERS.

Cargo and Passengers for Nagasaki will be transhipped to the Shanghai Mail Steamer at Kobe.

For further Particulars, apply at the Company's Offices, Praya Central, Ground Floor of Messrs Russell & Co.

H. J. H. TRIPP, Agent.

Hongkong, March 21, 1882. m28

Insurances.

THAMES AND MERSEY MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

HEAD OFFICE—1, ROYAL EXCHANGE BUILDINGS, LONDON.

THE Undersigned having been appointed AGENTS in HONGKONG and CHINA for the above Company are prepared to accept MARINE RISKS at Current Rates, allowing usual Discounts.

ADAMSON, BELL & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, May 3, 1881. smy82

THE SOUTH BRITISH FIRE AND MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY OF NEW ZEALAND.

CAPITAL £1,000,000 (One Million Sterling).

Unlimited Liability of Shareholders.

THE Undersigned having been appointed AGENTS for the above Company are prepared to accept FIRE and MARINE RISKS at Current Rates, allowing usual Discounts.

GEO. R. STEVENS & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, July 1, 1881.

MANCHESTER FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY OF MANCHESTER AND LONDON.

ESTABLISHED 1824.

Capital of the Company £1,000,000 Sterling of which is paid-up, £2,100,000

Reserve and upwards of £ 120,000

Annual Income £ 250,000

THE Undersigned have been appointed AGENTS for the above Company at Hongkong, Canton, Foochow, Shanghai, and Hankow, and are prepared to grant Insurances at current rates.

HOLLIDAY, WISE & Co.

Hongkong, October 15, 1868.

NOTICE.

QUEEN FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

THE Undersigned are prepared to accept Risks on First Class Goods at 1/2 per cent. nett premium per annum.

NORTON & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, May 19, 1881.

NOTICE.

CHINESE INSURANCE COMPANY (LIMITED).

POLICIES GRANTED at current rates on MARINE RISKS to all parts of the World. In accordance with the Company's Articles of Association, Two-thirds of the Profits are distributed annually to Contributors, whether Shareholders or not, in proportion to the net amount of Premium contributed by each, the remaining third being carried to Reserve Fund.

J. BRADLEE SMITH, Secretary.

Hongkong, April 6, 1881. Gap82

Insurances.

YANGTSE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION.

CAPITAL (Fully Paid-up).....Tls. 420,000.00

PERMANENT RESERVE.....Tls. 230,000.00

SPECIAL RESERVE FUND.....Tls. 288,936.17

Total Capital and Accumulations, 2nd April, 1881.....Tls. 938,936.17

Directors: F. B. FORBES, Esq., Chairman. W. M. BOYD, Esq. Wm. MEYERSON, Esq. J. H. PINKOVSKY, Esq. F. D. HITCH, Esq. Esq.

HEAD OFFICE—SHANGHAI. Messrs RUSSELL & Co., Secretaries.

LONDON BRANCH: Messrs DARRING BROTHERS & Co., 68 and 69, Cornhill.

Policies granted on Marine Risks to all parts of the World.

Subject to a Charge of 12 1/2 per cent. on Shareholders' Capital, all the PROFITS of the Underwriting Business are annually distributed among all Contributors of Business in proportion to the Premium paid by them.

RUSSELL & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, May 20, 1881. Loc82

LANCASHIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

(FIRE AND LIFE.)

CAPITAL—TWO MILLIONS STERLING.

THE Undersigned are prepared to grant Policies against the Risk of FIRE on Buildings or on Goods stored therein, on Goods on board Vessels, and on Halls of Vessels in Harbour, at the usual Terms and Conditions.

Proposals for Life Insurances will be received, and transmitted to the Directors for their decision.

If required, protection will be granted on first class Lives up to £10,000 on a Single Life.

For Rates of Premiums, forms of proposals or any other information, apply to ARNOLD, KARBURG & Co., Agents, Hongkong & Canton.

Hongkong, January 4, 1867.

THE LONDON ASSURANCE.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER OF His Majesty King George The First, A. D. 1720.

THE Undersigned having been appointed AGENTS for the above Corporation are prepared to grant Insurances as follows:—

Marine Department.

Policies at current rates, payable either here, in London or at the principal Ports of India, China and Australia.

Fire Department.

Policies issued for long or short periods at current rates.

Life Department.

Policies issued for sums not exceeding £5,000 at reduced rates.

HOLLIDAY, WISE & Co.

Hongkong, July 25, 1872.

THE CITY OF LONDON FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

CAPITAL, £2,000,000. PAID-UP, £200,000.

PAID-UP RESERVE FUND, £50,000.

THE Undersigned having been appointed AGENTS for the above Company are prepared to ACCEPT RISKS against FIRE at Current Rates.

GEO. R. STEVENS & Co.

Hongkong, January 1, 1882.

PRUSSIAN NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY, OF STETTIN.

THE Undersigned having been appointed AGENTS for the above Company, are prepared to Grant Insurances against FIRE at Current Rates.

MEYER & Co.

Hongkong, May 10, 1881. 10ny82

NORTH BRITISH & MERCANTILE INSURANCE COMPANY.

THE Undersigned, AGENTS of the above Company, are authorized to Insure against FIRE at Current Rates.

GILMAN & Co.

Hongkong, January 1, 1882.

To-day's Advertisements.

OCEAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

FOR LONDON VIA SUEZ CANAL.

The Co's Steamship "Aquamanna," Captain WILSON, will be despatched at Noon TO-MORROW, the 23rd instant.

For Freight or Passage, apply to BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE, Agents.

Hongkong, March 22, 1882. m22

FOR MANILA VIA AMOY.

The Steamship "Diamant," Captain CULLEN, will be despatched for the above Port on SATURDAY, the 25th instant, at 4 p.m.

For Freight or Passage, apply to RUSSELL & Co. Agents.

Hongkong, March 22, 1882. m25

AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN LLOYD'S STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

STEAM FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG, COLOMBO, BOMBAY, ADEN, SUEZ, PORT SAID, AND TRIESTE.

(Taking Cargo at through rates to CALCUTTA, PERSIAN GULF PORTS, ODESSA, and the MEDITERRANEAN PORTS.)

The Co's Steamship "Vorwarts," Captain G. MAURER, will be despatched on THURSDAY, the 6th Proximo, at 4 p.m.

For further Particulars, apply to MELCHERS & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, March 22, 1882. Gap82

To-day's Advertisements.

THEATRE ROYAL CITY HALL.

GRAND MATINEE PERFORMANCE ON FRIDAY, the 24th Instant, FOR LADIES & CHILDREN, (By General Desire).

MUSICAL, NECROMANCY, INSTRUMENTAL, VOCAL AND COMICAL PERFORMANCE.

PROFESSOR RUCHWALDY, THE CELEBRATED HUNGARIAN WIZARD, With his Great Talented THREE FAMOUS CHILDREN, SAM, NATZI, RUDOLPH, 9, 7, 5 Years old.

G. R. A. N. D. U. O. C. E. S. S. M. L. L. E. K. A. T. H. A. R. I. N. A. 3 Years old.

LE VOILA NICOLA, And MADAME RUCHWALDY, Pianiste, PETIT of the GREAT VIRTUOSO LUSZ.

The Programme will be so arranged that Ladies, Children and Gentlemen, who witness the performance will be highly gratified.

Every Child to receive a Present. NO DECAPITATION ACTS.

Doors open at 2 p.m.; Performance to commence at 3 o'clock, precisely.

Prices of Admission: For all Seats.....\$1.

Tickets to be obtained at Messrs LANE, CLAWSON & Co's, and at the Doors on the Day of Performance.

Hongkong, March 22, 1882. m24

THEATRE ROYAL CITY HALL.

Under the Patronage of H. E. THE ADMINISTRATOR and H. E. GENERAL DONOVAN.

THE ITALIAN OPERA COMPANY FIFTH PERFORMANCE ON SATURDAY NEXT, the 25th Instant.

When will be produced VERDI'S GRAND OPERA, "Un Ballo in Maschera."

DRAMATIS PERSONE: Riccardo, Conte di Warwick, Signor Fanczatti. Renato, Greolo, Signor Ciochi. Amelia, Signora Lubitz. Ughes, a page, Signora Silini. Oscar, a page, Signora Piuelli. Silvano, Signor Paterino. Samuele, Signor Corti. Tomaso, Signor N. N. Die Ardenne, Signor Brappetti. Una serva d'Amelia, Signora Berlotini. CHORUS, DEPUTIES, OFFICERS, MARINERS, GUARDS, POULACE, PARTISANS OF SAMUEL & TOMASO, SEVANS, MANQUERAZZES, &c.

Tickets may be obtained of Messrs KELLY & WATSON, and at the Doors on the Night of the Performance.

Doors open at 8.30 p.m.; Performance to commence at 9 p.m., sharp.

Ladies unaccompanied by Gentlemen cannot be admitted.

A. HOFFLICH.

Hongkong, March 22, 1882. m26

Occidental & Oriental Steam-Ship Company.

TAKING CARGO AND PASSENGERS TO JAPAN, THE UNITED STATES, MEXICO, CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA, AND EUROPE, VIA THE OVERLAND RAILWAYS, AND ATLANTIC & OTHER CONNECTING STEAMERS.

THE S. S. CAELIC will be despatched for San Francisco via Yokohama, on WEDNESDAY, the 29th March, 1882, at 3 p.m.

Connection being made at Yokohama, with Steamers from Shanghai and Japan ports.

All Parcel Packages should be marked to address in full; and same will be received at the Company's Office, until 5 p.m. the day previous to sailing.

A Reduction of 25 % made on all RETURN PASSENGER FARES.

Consular Invoices to accompany Overland, Mexican, Central and South American Cargo, should be sent to the Company's Office addressed to the Collector of Customs, San Francisco.

For further information as to Freight or Passage, apply to the Agency of the Company, No. 504, Queen's Road Central.

CHAS. H. HASWELL, Jr., Agent.

Hongkong, March 14, 1882. m29

Not Responsible for Debts.

Neither the Captain, the Agents, nor Owners will be responsible for any Debt contracted by the Officers or Crew of the following Vessels, during their stay in Hongkong Harbour:—

CAMELOT, British steamer, Capt. James Boor.—Bun Hin Chan.

CHARLES OAK, American ship, Capt. L. Gilkey.—Captain.

COLOMA, American barque, Capt. Noyes.—Rosario & Co.

EDWIN REED, American barque, Capt. J. C. Gilmore.—Order.

ESCAMADA, British steamer, Capt. John B. Purvis.—Russell & Co.

LIBERTY, American ship, Capt. C. H. Allyan.—Messageries Maritimes.

J. A. BORDLAND, American barque, Capt. J. H. Kent.—Douglas Lapin & Co.

MARY TATEMAN, British steamer, Captain John Gorty.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

NEELIE M. SLADE, Amer. 3-m. schooner, Capt. Gould.—Melchers & Co.

ONIDA, American ship, Captain Benjamin Carver.—Adams, Bell & Co.

PERFIDO, British steamer, Captain T. S. Kenderdine.—Melchers & Co.

WARRFIELD, American barque, Capt. W. S. Crowell.—Captain.

W. H. BRIST, American barque, Captain B. O. Baker.—Russell & Co.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

March 22, Agamemnon, British steamer, 1622, Willing, Shanghai March 17, via Swatow, General.—BOTTENFELD & SWIRE.

March 22, Gelong, British steamer, 1139, W. J. Webber, Saigon March 17, Rice.—CHONG CHONG.

March 22, 12.30 p.m.; Pechili, British steamer, 880, W. H. Jackson, Shanghai March 18, 11 a.m., General.—JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.

ance perfect. Her vocalization was marked with purity and power for which the fair prima contralto has established a high reputation; indeed, it may be said that she possesses the most powerful contralto voice of any lady who has yet honoured Hongkong, while its flexibility and the ease with which she makes the best use of her high gifts as once place the audience in the mood of gratified listeners rather than fastidious critics. Another point which was most striking, however, in the highly successful performance of the Signora last night was the grace, good taste and refinement displayed in the histrionic part of her role. There was a high finish, as well as the evidence of the most cultured stage, in the suppression of all exaggeration and staginess, which marked this effort of the Signora as one of the finest performances we have seen of late. Although we can scarcely conceive the part of Violetta (in "Traviata") entirely devoid of its necessarily repulsive features, the success of Signora Silini in Leonora almost justifies the hope that she may yet favour us with the most artistic rendering of "La dame aux Camélias" yet given in this Colony. Of the singing and acting of Signor Cicoci, in the role of Alfredo, we can only speak in the very highest terms, as he was every inch a King throughout; and it must be conceded to the audience, that the reception accorded to Alfredo and Leonora was of a most unusually hearty description. Little more need be said; but the two artists named will doubtless take away with them a more kindly impression of the appreciation of a Hongkong audience than has generally fallen to the lot of travelling artists who have visited this "dot on the ocean." Although Signor Cicoci may by sheer force have monopolised more than his natural share of interest in the cast, Signor Vanzetti (as Fernando) deservedly claimed a leading position by the admirable rendering of the role assigned to him. It must be said of the primo tenore that he fully maintains his place in the favour of the public, and certainly his singing last night in the piece under notice was a marked success. He displayed also a more passionate and thorough identification with the character he represented than he has hitherto done; and the dramatic force which he threw into his personation of the injured and disgraced lover showed that he is a well-trained actor, as well as the possessor of a high-class tenor voice. Indeed, in the closing scenes with Leonora, he fairly excelled anything he has yet done, and was greeted with thunders of applause; the approbation being, of course, divided between the fair Leonora and himself.

Having spoken thus favourably of the principal actors in the opera, it is the least pleasant to have to take away in any measure from the praise accorded. But, excepting Ines (Signora Bertolini), the other characters cannot even be described as approximations to success. While the somewhat important role of Baldassarre lost in importance by being entrusted to a weak brother (Signor Corti), who was unused to the part, his "shaky" rendering of the music sadly marred his otherwise laudable attempts to look the venerable and kind-hearted abbe—the part of Don Gaspare was used by Signor Brunetti as a medium for introducing a touch of burlesque into the serious proceedings of the play. The part of Ines was very creditably represented, as we have said, by Signora Bertolini, who exhibited powers worthy of a better role. The chorus was also less worthy of commendable mention than it has yet been; while the prompting was far more audible than it ought to have been. These are details which ought to be remedied, and none will be more pleased than ourselves to find all causes for remembrance removed. Altogether, however, the representation of "La Favorita" by the Company was a genuine musical success; and if we speak of the leading roles only, it was a treat such as is seldom attainable in a place like Hongkong.

"On Ballo in Maschera" is announced as the piece to be performed on Saturday evening.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

The annual general meeting of the Chamber of Commerce was held this afternoon, at the City Hall, when there were present:—The Hon. P. Ryrie (in the Chair), The Hon. F. B. Johnson, H. Dalrymple, G. Sharp, A. P. McEwen, O. Kahn, J. D. Macintosh, L. Poosnacker, A. Oxon, W. M. Morgan, W. H. F. Darby, J. Thurburn, F. D. Sassoon, E. E. Elias, G. O. Scott, G. de Champeaux, W. V. Davis, C. P. Chater, Wm. Forrest, F. H. Arjane, and E. George (Secretary).

The following is the Report:—

The Blockade.—At the last annual meeting it was proposed again to memorialise Her Majesty's Government for the entire removal of the Blockade. The Memorial has been drafted and placed in the hands of a sub-committee for completion—but they are awaiting the receipt of certain papers containing information on the subject before proceeding further in the matter.

The Treatment of Chinese Passengers from Hongkong by the New South Wales Government.—A representation having been made to the Chamber by the Agents of the Steamship *Ocean* regarding the treatment of the passengers by that vessel hence to Sydney by the Government of New South Wales, your Committee deemed it imperative upon them to make a strong appeal to the Chamber of Commerce, Sydney, with a view to obtain their assistance in seeking modification of the laws affecting emigration to that Colony. The correspondence will be found in the appendix, and copies have been forwarded to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Emigration to Honolulu.—At the last annual meeting it was proposed, "That this Chamber memorialise the Governor to withdraw the restrictions on emigration from Hongkong to Honolulu."

Your Committee lost no time in communicating this resolution to the Government and in reply the Chamber is informed that His Excellency the Governor could not sanction any Chinese Emigration involving contract of service because Rule 4 of the printed Rules issued for the last six years by the Emigration Office, framed under instructions from Her Majesty's Government, respecting Chinese Emigration, says:—"Emigration under contract of service is prohibited unless the ship shall be proceeding to a British Colony."

Representation in England.—In furtherance of this object the Chamber has received a communication from the "British and Colonial Union" which has been established in London for the furtherance of Trade between Great Britain and her Colonies and to promote the Commercial Interests of the British Empire. The first resolution of the Union is as follows:—

"That, considering the increasing importance of the Colonial Trade of Great Britain, and that her Colonies are without direct representation in the Imperial Parliament, and, considering also, that Commercial Treaties with Foreign Countries whereby Colonial interests are deeply affected are entered upon by the Mother Country without adequate consultation with the Colonies, this Conference is of opinion that in all matters of Imperial or International Treaties where Colonial interests are directly or indirectly involved, an endeavour should be made to ascertain the views of the Colonies, and that proper weight be attached to their opinions."

In the opinion of your Committee the above resolution meets to a certain extent the want so long felt here of having some representation in London of the interests of this Colony, your Committee have requested that the Chamber be added to the list of members and have forwarded a subscription of 5 Guinea; this has been duly acknowledged, and your Committee now invited to nominate a gentleman to represent the Chamber, at the Council of the Union.

Reuter's Political Telegrams.—In reply to the representations made to Reuter's Telegram Co. as to the inefficiency of the former service, the Directors undertook to increase the number of telegrams sent monthly payment of \$300. His Excellency the Governor having expressed his willingness to contribute the same proportion as formerly, your Committee at once closed with the offer, on the understanding that a daily service be supplied from the 1st January, 1892.

The introduction of Telephone into Hongkong.—The Chamber having been requested to become members of the proposed exchange, your Committee have had the matter under consideration, but do not see that any useful purpose would be served by so doing as the enterprise is one the merits of which must be decided by the general body of the Mercantile and Trading communities.

The Mail Service.—Your Committee have been in communication with the Postmaster General here and the Superintendent of the P. & O. Company with a view to obtain such an alteration in the day of departure of the *Homeward* and *Southward* as would obviate the necessity of working on Sunday, but although everything has been done by both those gentlemen to meet the views of the Chamber, it has been found to be impracticable to alter the existing Time Table. However, the latter gentleman has courteously sent the Chamber an extract from a letter from the Managing Directors in which they say:

"The question of the Time Table for 1892 is still in abeyance and it is impossible to say what the Postmaster General will finally decide upon, but we will bear in mind the request of your Chamber of Commerce where the matter comes up again for discussion."

Statistics of Trade.—The Table of Sales appended has been compiled as last year from the returns furnished to the Chamber by Importers, but it must be obvious to the members that the totals do not accurately represent the trade of the Colony, the fact that they are therefore hoped that in the future they will see the advantage of giving the fullest possible returns to enable the Committee to bring forward a more correct statement.

The Chairman said he believed it had been the custom that the minutes of previous general meetings should be taken as read. He had to present them with the report of the Committee of the Chamber for the year 1891, and the accounts attached thereto. They had had the report in hand and would have seen the subjects taken in hand by the Committee. There were not many remarks for him to make on the report.

The Blockade still existed, and at the present stage it was perhaps as well that no remarks should be made on the subject. On the treatment of Chinese passengers by the *Ocean* he understood that a member present would have a few words to say. As to the representation of the Chamber at home, they would see that this rather important matter had been taken up, and they hoped that by-and-by it might help them, but in the meantime nothing further had been done than to forward the subscription and enrol the Chamber as one of the members of the union. They would see that a gentleman had at that meeting been elected to represent the Chamber in London. As they were aware the mail services had been changed, and he hoped that in time the French mail would be put on the same day. The funds of the Chamber were in a satisfactory state. With regard to the statistics of Trade the Chairman had no doubt that the Secretary had a great deal of difficulty in collecting them. The Committee hoped that their recommendations would be carried out. He proposed that the report, with accounts attached, be passed by the meeting.

The Hon. F. B. Johnson hoped the meeting would not consider his remarks occupying the time of the Chamber while he made a few remarks on one or two subjects suggested by the report. Some of these subjects appeared to be directly connected with the questions which had recently been under discussion, and he thought that on the occasion of that meeting he would not be out of place in making some further allusion to them. The first question raised by the report was the Blockade, and as one of the members of the Committee appointed to draw up a memorial to the Home Government on the subject of that admittedly illegal arrangement which

was forced upon them, he thought it right to say that the reason why they were unable to get it done away with was that the Chinese merchants, whose goods were subject to these levies, would not afford the information which would enable them to see the real facts of the case before Her Majesty's Government. It seemed that the Chinese inhabitants of this Colony, who, as they had recently heard not obscurely hinted, were to influence the policy of this Government—these people were bound not to support the Government of this Colony, but their eyes were turned to the other side of the water. The great body of Chinese in the Colony were Chinese who were not British subjects, and their sympathies were almost always with the policy of their brethren on the mainland. With regard to the memorial they hoped to be able to obtain some facts which would strengthen their cause when they came to lay it before Government. Meanwhile they heard that negotiations were in progress between the Chinese, British and Indian Governments with regard to the opium question, he thought it highly desirable that the Chamber should take the opportunity to express their views on the subject, and that they should also express their views on the subject of the levies on the goods of the Chinese. The next question raised by the report concerned the case of the *Ocean*. He thought he only shared in the indignation which must have been present to every member of this Chamber when the statement was made that the *Ocean* was to be sent to the Colonies, and that proper weight be attached to their opinions. In the opinion of your Committee the above resolution meets to a certain extent the want so long felt here of having some representation in London of the interests of this Colony, your Committee have requested that the Chamber be added to the list of members and have forwarded a subscription of 5 Guinea; this has been duly acknowledged, and your Committee now invited to nominate a gentleman to represent the Chamber, at the Council of the Union.

The Chairman then proposed that the Chamber invite Mr. James MacAndrew to represent them in England, and said he was not aware of any gentleman who could be more acceptable—a gentleman who had been long connected with China, and one who had taken a part in the business of the Chamber in an early period of its existence. He was not sure if he had not been Chairman at one time.

Mr. Sharp, in seconding the proposal, said that he thought Mr. MacAndrew was one of the most suitable and appropriate persons that could have been selected. The proposal was carried unanimously.

OFFICE BEARERS.—Messrs Johnson, Dalrymple, Ryrie, Huxley, and Kahn were elected as Committee for the ensuing year, but Mr. McEwen intimated that he intended going home shortly, and proposed that the next member on the list take his place. Mr. Macintosh being next, was accordingly elected.

The Hon. P. Ryrie, Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively on the proposal of Mr. McEwen, seconded by Mr. Davis.

RESOLUTIONS.—The Chairman said he had to intimate that he had received a communication from the International Monetary Standard Association, whose objects Mr. Ryrie read—viz the advancement of bimetallicism. He had been pretty well ventilated. He did not know whether in that Chamber they were all agreed upon the subject. Some supposed bimetallicism would be a great boon to the world, others thought the reverse. For himself he confessed he had arrived at no very decided opinion on the subject. At the first meeting of the objects of the Society it appeared that no great harm at any rate would be done by agitating the subject. There were some very influential names on the circular. Seeing that the currency in China was silver it did not occupy the attention of people here very much. Some of the members of the Chamber might have forwarded a suggestion that they should forward a resolution. Mr. G. Sharp said he did not think they should let the subject alone altogether. He had been asked to say something about it before the meeting began. Their currency was silver, but that silver currency had been greatly depreciated, and he was beginning to get very anxious if he had to carry home any. If without expressing any opinion on the subject they should just send a subscription he did not see that any harm could be done, and the intellects at home could light it out amongst them.

The Hon. F. B. Johnson said he wished to say only a few words. He wished to express a very different opinion from that which had just been delivered by his friend. The depreciation of silver instead of being any disadvantage to them had been of great importance, as it had been an almost unmitigated boon to all the trade interests. It had opened up trade which would otherwise have been impossible. It had created a great trade between countries which maintained a gold standard. The subject was of far too great importance to be discussed off-hand. They should take into consideration the enormous rise in the value of real estate, and of all other descriptions of property which had taken place in the East, and in his opinion the cause, the main cause, of that rise was the depreciation of silver. He apologised for having made these few observations on the subject. He wished to record his opinion that depreciation had not done the evil it seemed to have.

The Chairman said the question could be done by a Society of this kind to limit, as it were, the fall it would be some good. If it were to go on dropping as it had been where would it end? The Chamber might assist the gentlemen in London in getting the thing fully ventilated.

Mr. A. P. McEwen proposed that the matter should be left in the hands of the Committee. Mr. Forrest seconded. Mr. Davis suggested that the matter should be considered by the Chamber and the subscription then sent. The Society seemed to have a definite object to carry out and if the Chamber sent a subscription it would imply that they endorsed their opinion. He had no definite idea on the matter one way or the other, but he thought it was a great question, and he thought it was worth the notice of the Chamber.

Mr. McEwen's motion was passed. The Hon. F. B. Johnson proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman for the able way in which he had managed the affairs of the Chamber during the past year.

MIKE.—"It's the Irish that does all the inverting in these days, sure." Jonathan: "Irish be damned! the Irish don't invent anything to speak of; it's the Americans that invent everything." Mike: "Thin perhaps you can tell me why the Irishman made, Fek, is always next the door on all the new inventions and things of an old name can you find on, at all at all?"

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The following jury was empanelled: Messrs. L. V. Love, N. J. Gomes, M. A. Gomes, J. H. Baker, L. Martin, C. Kahn, S. M. V. de Remedios.

The Attorney General (The Hon. E. L. O'Malley), instructed by Mr. Sharp, the Crown Solicitor, prosecuted. The evidence for the prosecution was that the defendant, entered the complainant's matted, and after standing looking at some of the inmates playing at dominoes for some time, he snatched the dice and some cash, and threatened to apprehend the complainant unless he was paid 200 cash. The defendant was in plain clothes.

The defence was that twenty persons were gambling in a position outside the shed where they could easily be seen by the public. The defendant cautioned them to desist, but they continued to play. He apprehended the complainant, and the complainant and one of his companions concealed the story against him on the way to the station.

His Lordship pointed out that it was a very serious charge to bring against an officer, and that it was very easy to bring such a charge and very difficult to disprove it without witnesses. He also pointed out that it was an unlikely case for the defendant to pursue, after being denied the money to permit in apprehending them. The jury found the defendant not guilty, but expressed the opinion that the constable had exceeded his duty.

ASSAULT AND ROBBERY.

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Two of the complainants while standing at their shop door heard a cry of "robbery," and saw the defendant running. One ran out to stop him, and received a wound on the left arm, one inch long, and half an inch deep on the chief artery, with a dagger which the defendant had in his hand. The other ran to his friend's assistance and received two slight cuts on the arm, one on each hand. The third complainant, a coolie, attempted to stop the man, and again the defendant used his dagger inflicting a superficial wound on the left wrist, one inch long.

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The jury returned a verdict of guilty against the four prisoners for robbery on the high seas. They were each sentenced to two years' imprisonment.

LACERTY.

Chau Ajow was found guilty of stealing two brass opium smoking pipes on the 14th February belonging to Wong Akat from the complainant's house in Wing Lok Street. He admitted two previous convictions. Sentence was reserved.

Yong Anu, a lad of 15 years, was found guilty of stealing a hat from Ho An, school boy, in Queen's Road West on the 7th March. He admitted two previous convictions. Sentence was reserved.

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